

Maricopa County Illegal Dumping Prevention Program

Sept. 15, 1999

1 p.m.

163rd Ave. and Grand Avenue

Supervisor Brewer

Illegal dumping is a very real problem that is “plaguing” our community and our beautiful natural resources.

Illegal dumping can affect our children,... our friends,... and our elderly -- and it is a real threat to our health, property values, and quality of life.

At Maricopa County, we’re concerned about this out-of-control plague of illegal dumping, and we believe its time someone takes a new approach and does something about it.

So today, Maricopa County is implementing our Illegal Dumping and Prevention Program. This broad new programs will seek to:

1. Investigate, pursue and help catch the criminals who commit illegal dumping offenses.
2. (602) 506-DUMP - Set up a new system of public involvement to report offenses when they happen. 506-DUMP will be manned 24 hours a day where witnesses can call and the County will take action immediately!
3. In order to successfully combat this problem, we also need the public’s active participation... Therefore, we will also be setting up a reward fund to encourage the flow of information.
4. And finally, since property owners are responsible for clean up of their own property, we thought we'd kick off this program by cleaning up this site here today that is on County land. Clearly, the County doesn’t have the resources to clean up all property that has been illegally dumped upon, but we encourage good property owners to follow our lead.

I want to thank the Sheriff’s office, our Environmental Services Department and Planning & Zoning offices for coordinating together on this vital new program.

Let me also thank our Solid Waste Department and Flood Control District for working with my office to clean up this site here by Sun City West.

To those illegal dumpers out there, we're comin' after you. The illegal dumping of junk, trash and debris is a Class I misdemeanor or possible felony.

Its time for the people to take back our desert, and I encourage the people to join our cause.

Get involved with the Maricopa County Illegal Dumping Program,... if you see someone dumping, get an exact location, hopefully a license-plate number,... call 506-DUMP and help us pursue these criminals.

- Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors passed a new program to address the ugly, dangerous, and sometimes hazardous problem of illegal dumping in the unincorporated area of Maricopa County.
- We're talking about individuals and businesses that dump trash in an unpermitted area – empty lots often along roadsides, next to homes, in our pristine desert.
- These offenders, often under the guise of night, are trying to avoid paying disposal fees, and end up costing all taxpayers with their activity.
- We're talking about construction and demolition waste, auto parts, appliances, furniture, yard waste, and household trash.
- The illegal dumping of junk, trash and debris on unoccupied County-owned or private land in the unincorporated areas of Maricopa County is a Class I misdemeanor and could become a felony if a large enough amount is identified.
- We are here to announce the beginning of our Illegal Dumping Prevention Program and kicking it off with the cleanup of this site near homes right off of Grand Avenue.
- We also ask for the public's help in stopping this illegal activity with the introduction of the 602-506-DUMP hotline. The hotline has been setup for citizens to report illegal dumping. If you see dumping, get an exact location and license-plate numbers, if possible, so the Sheriff's Office can pursue these criminals.

Joy Rich

- To kick off the program we are cleaning up this site that is on County land as good property owners. We encourage all property owners to follow suit.
- We want to help catch these offenders. We want the public to help us catch these offenders so we can save all taxpayers money and keep our desert in its beautiful, pristine state as it should be.
- The state legislature has now given us the power to pursue these criminals and we are committed to helping take back our land.
- Through the program, we hope to develop a reward fund to encourage the flow of information on these activities. We have invited our friends in this area and will be talking to officials throughout the County of our program. We hope the media also informs residents of the outlying areas because they see much of this activity.
- We are supported by our Sheriff's Office, who will have deputies to respond to illegal dumping calls from the public.

Other points we may need to answer:

- Costs of cleanup – exact amount is unavailable at this time, however, the cost may range from \$5,000 to \$8,000
- Costs of program – about \$85,000 annually
- Why this site? - Visibility, location, it is a County-owned site
- How many sites around the County? – an exact number has not been determined, but this program will be maintaining a database to track such figures based on citizen information

- How much would it cost to clean all sites? – impossible to estimate. It is not a new problem but more like a spreading disease and the program will attempt to thwart ongoing activity to the best of its ability
- Jurisdictional questions (incorporated vs. unincorporated)